PREFACE.

Shloka—

1. The B&agavad-Gitd is one of the most ancient and authoritative Scrijpt^res of the Hindu Religion. In a compact form it gives the essence of the Vedanta Doctrine applicable' to all Castes (Vai^as) and Orders (Ashramas). With a little explanation it can^e easily understood. But the discrimination of the *Real,* and- the *Unreal* with its modifications, is only known to a blessed few* —the Wise.

The four Castes and Orders, each has its own ordained Karma—called the *Sva-Dharma.* By this system none are debarred from spiritual knowledge. But, the Gita's teaching is such, that each will find in it a way that will speed his spiritual progress, ending in salvation. Therefore every Hindu should study the Gite, and make its teaching a guide in his daily life.

Some orthodox Paridits say :—" With the exception of Brahmaiias, none are worthy to study the *Gitd*—especially the Shudras are, in no case, to study it." But in *Vdrdha Puvdtia* Shri Krishna says:—" A man born in any one of the four castes, who does not study, or hears, the *Gitd,* he, ignoring the nectar that is in his hands, takes poison with difficulty." Such being the case, it is incumbent on all—Hindus especially—to study the GM,

2. The large number of the translations of the *Gitd,* published during the last twenty years, shows that the *Bhflgavad-Gztd* is becoming an object of serious study to

all. Therefore, this compilation is undertaken, as an addition to them, with the hope—

(a) That it may be a help to the students in .their studies of the *Gitd ;* also-—